

COVID-19: Redmond mass vaccination center a well-oiled machine

Continued from P1

Volunteers are crucial to running the mass vaccination program. From the parking lot to the respite area, the entire process is organized each morning and volunteers are assigned different areas. Some volunteers come back repeatedly, like Galyon.

It's the volunteers who make the process of administering thousands of doses of COVID-19 vaccines to people in a 10-hour day run smoothly, said John Allen, a Deschutes County Health Services contact tracer assigned to organize the volunteers.

For most, it takes 45 minutes from parking their car to sitting in the respite area for 15 minutes after getting their vaccines.

On a recent day, Allen addressed a large group of orange-vested volunteers whose job it was to maintain flow through lines and operations.

"Most of you have been here before," Allen said. "We have a full complement of volunteers for the morning shift. Volunteers need to wear a mask and wear it in the proper fashion around the patients. "It's an example we're setting for the patients."

Inside the cavernous expo building, 30 vaccination tables were equally spaced apart and manned by green-vested volunteers where the vaccines were delivered. First, everyone goes to a registration table where blue-vested volunteers like Galyon and McCarthy work.

Galyon, a retired chemical engineer, is among many volunteers who come repeatedly. She's been there before the 10 a.m. opening 16 times. Volunteers arrive early, grab a bottle of water or a cup of coffee and wait inside a tent to get an assignment. Each volunteers for a job and some offer to stay the entire day.

Each day the vaccination clinic finds something new to tweak: Post a volunteer at a bottleneck here, have another keep the line moving and maintain 6-foot spacing in the queue inside, or designate a volunteer to greet people, said Allen. In a separate room at the Expo Center, people who've had their shots sit in rows of green chairs that are evenly spaced apart where they are monitored by blue-vested volunteers.

Wednesday was Shannon Bergstedt's first time volunteering at the clinic. A retired registered nurse, Bergstedt was manning a post that directed people to the area where they could sit for the required 15 minutes while they are observed for any reactions to the vaccination.

"I volunteer a lot," Bergstedt said. "I try to give back, and I have skills they can use."

Samantha Freson, a 26-year-old Bend resident was in the respite area after getting her first vaccination. She, like many others, was on her phone waiting for the time to pass before she could leave.

She knew what to expect of the vaccination clinic, but was still impressed by how smoothly everything went.

"It went pretty swiftly," Freson said. "It feels good to get the vaccine. There are lots of people here offering to help or answer questions."

"I had been anxious about getting my vaccine. I had put my name on every list. I wanted to get the vaccine. To me, it's like any other vaccination. It's an extra safeguard."

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ABOVE: People line up to get a COVID-19 vaccination April 8 at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond.



Photos by DEAN GUERNSEY • The Bulletin

Volunteers needed

Applications are being accepted for volunteers at the mass vaccine clinic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center. Nonmedical and medical volunteers are encouraged to apply online at: <https://bit.ly/203MnmC>

LEFT: Volunteers work to get out around 3,000 shots per day during a vaccination clinic at the Deschutes County fairgrounds.



ABOVE: Sydni Williams administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Colin Brynn during a vaccination clinic at the fairgrounds earlier this month. RIGHT: Mike Marentic and Andy Laursen prepare syringes during the vaccination clinic. BELOW: Volunteer Helena Conway wheels Karen Harrington, left, and volunteer Madeline Taussig wheels Dotty Parker out of the waiting area at the fairgrounds.



Calendar

Continued from P1

Noon-4 p.m.; Downtown Redmond, Redmond; go.evnt.com/765801-0 or 541-923-5191.

Virtual Event — Writing Wild with Kathryn Aalto: In a visually rich and entertaining presentation, New York Times bestselling author and acclaimed speaker Kathryn Aalto discusses her book, "Writing Wild"; 12-1 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/739182-1

Financial Statements for Non-Numbers Business Owners by Central Oregon SCORE: This event will teach you how to navigate the financial aspects of a business even if you don't consider yourself a "numbers savvy" individual; 3:30-5 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/765864-0

Redmond Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting: The committee will discuss preservation month activities, the adaptive preservation LLC and more; 4:30-6 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/769705-0 or 541-923-7758.

Author Event — Emmeline Duncan: A conversation with the author about their book "Fresh Brewed Murder"; a murder mystery set in Portland and food truck pod; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/763774-0

The (Mostly) Normal COWs Kickoff: Join us for a webinar to learn about the Central Oregon Wheelers recreational bike club; 6-7 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/761776-1 or 541-633-0422.

RiverFeast: The annual fundraiser for the Deschutes River Conservancy will be held virtually and feature a poem reading from Ellen Waterston, MosleyWotta, Hunter Noack and more; 7-8 p.m.; \$35; online; go.evnt.com/769828-1 or 541-382-4077.

Hearing in Color: Join us on a journey into the experiences of a synesthete and learn what it is like to hear in color (synesthesia). For Chris Thomas (a composer), the experience of hearing activates color; 7-8 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/757236-0 or 541-312-1063.

FRIDAY 4/23

Women's Virtual Coffee & Meetup: Please join us at this Women Business Owners event to learn about SCORE Portland & SW Washington and meet some of our successful women in business; 8-9 a.m.; \$10; online; go.evnt.com/765866-1

Americana Song Academy for Youth: The online class about music, inspiration and creativity for youths 14-18 years old will be held; 6 p.m. through 3 p.m. April 25; Free to \$200; online; eventbrite.com

SATURDAY 4/24

Spring Gardening Seminar — Lawn Care in Central Oregon: The seminar hosted by OSU Extension Service and presented by the Central Oregon Master Gardener Association will include tips and tricks on lawn care; 10-11 a.m.; \$5; online; go.evnt.com/758728-1 or 541-548-6088.

Candidate Forum — Deschutes Public Library Board: Candidates for the library board will be featured in a virtual forum; 5:30-7 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/769715-0 or 541-312-1032.

Magical Mystery Four: The Beatles tribute band will perform at the winery, tickets must be purchased in advance, no door sales; 6-9 p.m.; \$20; Faith, Hope and Charity Vineyards, 70450 NW Lower Valley Drive, Terrebonne; go.evnt.com/763771-1

The HWY 97 Band: The classic rock band performs on the outdoor stage; 6:30-9 p.m.; General Duffy's Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; go.evnt.com/755282-0

MONDAY 4/26

Art Inspired by Art: Explore the art inspired by The Other Americans created by COCC students; 6-7 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/769717-0 or 541-312-1032.

TUESDAY 4/27

Reaching for the Sky — Lessons on Forest Canopies from Science: During this virtual lecture, Dr. David Anderson, ornithologist and founder of Canopy Watch International, will share recent efforts to grow the art and science of canopy access methods; 3-4 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/766837-0

Caldera Artist in Residence Virtual Air Share Events: Hear from Caldera artists in residence including DCM Collective, Kimberly Acebo Artech and Garima Thakur; 5:30-6:30 p.m.; registration required; online; go.evnt.com/769812-1 or 503-937-3061.

The Opioid Epidemic in America: Examine the history and influence of opioids and learn how their use for pain relief transformed into a national epidemic. David Tauben, M.D., FACP is Emeritus Clinical Professor at the University of Washington; 5:30-6:30 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/757304-0 or 541-312-1063.

Virtual City Council Meeting: A regular meeting will be held; 6-8 p.m.; online; go.evnt.com/769707-0 or 541-923-7710.

Tuesday Night Trivia: A weekly trivia night will be held. Masks and social distancing required, free to play, winners can receive gift cards; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Initiative Brewing, 424 NW Fifth St., Redmond; go.evnt.com/769769-0 or 541-527-4380.

Attention Parents of 2021 Grads!

Help make some memories!

The Bulletin is publishing a special Class of 2021 Graduation section on May 30 to celebrate graduating Central Oregon high school students.

Enter a congratulatory message or a short biography along with a photo for just \$25. Your messages will be grouped together by school and published in full color.

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY and **CITY CLUB OF CENTRAL OREGON**

City Club of Central Oregon and the League of Women Voters of Deschutes County have partnered to bring you candidate forums. Video production by Connect Central Oregon.

These virtual forums are **FREE** to the public. Forums are pre-recorded.

SUBMIT QUESTIONS!
 We encourage you to send questions for the candidates to info@lwvdeschutes.org

NEW!
 Redmond and Bend-Lapine School Districts Forums will have English to Spanish translation!

WATCH!
 LWV of Deschutes home page: LWVDeschutes.org/
 City Club C.O. YouTube: youtube.com/c/CityClubofCentralOregon

Find more information here: LWVDC calendar: <https://lwvdeschutes.org/events/>

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